



HEALING VIGIL GUIDE



CRIME
SURVIVORS
SPEAK

National Healing Vigil Day of Action Guide

Purpose of the National Healing Vigil Day of Action

For the ninth year, hundreds of crime survivors from across America will close National Crime Victims' Rights Week in unity by hosting the 9th Annual Survivors Speak National Healing Vigil Day of Action on April 25, 2026. The National Healing Vigil Day of Action, traditionally hosted by Crime Survivors Speak (formerly Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice), is a nationwide moment of remembrance, healing, and collective action led by survivors and communities impacted by violence. On April 25, 2026, crime survivors and organizations across the country will host local healing vigils to:

- Honor victims and survivors of violence
- Create safe spaces for grief, reflection, and healing
- Build community connection and solidarity
- Elevate survivor voices and lived experiences
- Call for healing-centered responses to violence

Each vigil is locally designed but nationally connected—grounded in dignity, compassion, and survivor leadership. Healing Vigils may vary based on community needs and culture. Common elements include:

- Candle lighting or moment of silence
- Spoken names of loved ones (optional)
- Survivor or family reflections (optional)
- Poetry, music, prayer, or cultural rituals
- Guided breathing or grounding exercise
- Resource sharing and community connection

There is no required script—only shared intention.



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Suggested Vigil Formats (Choose What Fits)

Option A: Traditional Candlelight Vigil

- Welcome + land acknowledgment (if applicable)
- Brief grounding moment
- Space for reflection and remembrance
- Lighting candles
- Calling of names read aloud or held in silence
- Closing reflection

Option B: Survivor Healing Circle

- Welcome + land acknowledgment (if applicable)
- Opening community agreement
- Guided breathing or meditation
- Voluntary sharing
- Affirmations or collective intention
- Closing ritual

Sample Run of Show (45–60 minutes)

- **Welcome & Purpose (5 min)**
 - Why we are gathered and what this space represents
- **Grounding Moment (5 min)**
 - Breathing, silence, or guided reflection
- **Remembrance (15 min)**
 - Candles, names, photos, or music
- **Survivor Voices (optional, 10–15 min)**
 - Voluntary reflections—no pressure to share
- **Collective Healing Moment (10 min)**
 - affirmations, music, or a closing ritual
- **Resources & Closing (5 min)**
 - Share local supports and thank attendees

To host a healing vigil in your city, complete the [Crime Survivors Speak National Healing Vigil Day of Action Commitment Form](#). For more information, contact us at info@cssj.org.